

Abstract

Surgical procedures on the beating heart are enabled by an incision made in the xyphoid area and specially designed retractors and related devices to facilitate cardiac surgical procedures. Specifically, coronary artery bypass graft procedures (CABG) are achieved using a vertically offsetting retractor or access platform in combination with a beating heart stabilizer. The surgical methodology permits procedures such as the CABG procedure without penetrating the rib cage or performing a sternotomy or thorocotomy.